

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00785 211109Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 INT-05 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 FEA-01 AGRE-00 /031 W
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R 210830Z APR 77
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7644
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0785

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECEM CH US

SUBJ: PROGRESS OF KELLOGG PLANTS

1. THE PULLMAN-KELLOGG OFFICE IN PEKING HAS GIVEN US
A RUNDOWN OF THE PROGRESS MADE ON THE EIGHT UREA PLANTS
IN CHINA.

2. THE PLANT AT PANCHIN, LIAONING, IS IN FULL PRODUCTION
AND HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY TURNED OVER TO THE PRC. UN-
FORTUNATELY, INSUFFICIENT ATTENTION HAD BEEN GIVEN BY THE
CHINESE TO SHIPPING THE PRODUCT OF THE PLANT, AND AT
THE END OF MARCH OVER 11,500 METRIC TONS OF UREA HAD
ACCUMULATED AT THE PLANT. ALL AMERICANS HAVE LEFT THE PLANT.

3. THE PLANT AT TSANGCHOW, HOPEI, IS RUNNING AT 90
PERCENT OF AMMONIA CAPACITY AND 80 PERCENT OF UREA. THE
AUTHORITIES ARE MAKING HEROIC EFFORTS TO GET THE UREA OFF
THE PREMISES, USING HUMAN CHAINS TO MOVE THE 85-POUND
SACKS FROM THE BAGGING MACHINES OUT OF THE FACTORY.
THE PLANT WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO START UP IN
DECEMBER, BUT NATURAL GAS PRESSURE FAILED, AND
MUCH EQUIPMENT WAS LOST WHEN STEAM PRESSURE ALSO
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FAILED (DESPITE CHINESE ATTEMPTS TO KEEP PRESSURE
UP USING A LOCOMOTIVE AS A STEAM SOURCE). FIVE
WEEKS WERE REQUIRED TO RESTORE GAS PRESSURE
AND REPAIR THE DAMAGE. IN MARCH, AN EXPLOSION AND
FIRE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT FROM UNKNOWN CAUSES
STOPPED PRODUCTION AGAIN, BUT THIS TIME THE CHINESE
RESTORED PRODUCTION IN ONLY TWO DAYS, BEGINNING TO

REPAINT AND CLEAN UP WELL BEFORE DAWN AND BEFORE
AMERICAN STAFF CAME ON DUTY. AMERICAN PERSONNEL HAS
BEGUN TO LEAVE THE SITE.

4. THE PLANT AT WOLITUN, HEILUNGKIANG HAD DIFFICULTIES
WITH THE EXTREME COLD, AND FULL PRODUCTION WAS DELAYED.
PRODUCTION IS UP, HOWEVER, AND ONLY ONE AMERICAN IS
LEFT AT THE SITE.

5. THE PLANT AT NACHI, SZECHUAN, THE FIRST PLANT TO
START PRODUCTION, IS NOT YET IN FULL PRODUCTION, BUT
BASIC PROBLEMS ARE SOLVED. ONLY ONE AMERICAN IS
LEFT AT THE SITE.

6. THE OTHER FOUR PLANTS ARE IN VARYING STAGES
OF CONSTRUCTION, WHICH FROM THE EXPERIENCE GAINED
AT THE EARLIER SITES, ARE PROCEEDING MUCH MORE
SMOOTHLY. NONE IS EXPECTED TO BE IN PRODUCTION
BEFORE 1978.
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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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